



VEHICLE AND GARAGE AREAS

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



PET CARE

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into a storm drain and eventually local waterbodies.



LAWN AND GARDEN

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for moderate to heavy rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than washing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.



Please direct all inquiries to the Callaway Public Works Department, 324 South Berthe Ave. Phone: 850-871-1033, Fax: 850-871-2416.



STORMWATER POLLUTION IS EVERY ONE'S PROBLEM

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. Homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect our waterbodies. Remember to share these habits with your neighbors!



HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Landscape with native plants to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

SWIMMING POOL AND SPA



- Drain your swimming pool only when absolutely necessary.
- Direct swimming pool or spa water into the lowest area of your yard and allow ample time for percolation.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.



SEPTIC SYSTEM USE AND MAINTENANCE

- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every three years, and have the septic pumped as necessary (usually every three to five years).
- Care for the septic system drainfield by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items, such as diapers, paper towels and cat litter, can clog the septic system and potentially damage components.

POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTANTS

- **Nutrients from fertilizers, septic tanks and animal wastes enter our waters causing excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds.**
- **Heavy metals and pesticides can kill aquatic organisms and contaminate ground water.**
- **Sewage, garbage, and litter reduce oxygen in the water to levels that can kill aquatic life.**
- **Sediments from soil erosion can clog fish gills and shellfish filtering systems by cutting off their oxygen supply.**
- **Bacteria from septic tanks and animal wastes contaminate shellfish and lead to the closing of swimming areas.**



This important information is provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Callaway Public Works Department. For more information contact the EPA at www.epa.gov/owm or the Public Works Department at 850-871-1033-phone or 850-871-2416-fax.